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LINCOLN  
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KENTUCKY



**Souvenir**  
**OF**  
**Lincoln National Park**

**H O D G E N V I L L E,**  
**K E N T U C K Y.**

**BY**  
**REV. LOUIS A. WARREN**

**PUBLISHERS**  
**HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY,**  
**HODGENVILLE, KY.**

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## PREFACE

The publication of the work in hand is an attempt on the part of the compiler to present to the public a souvenir of Lincoln National Park, which will adequately illustrate and describe the places of interest on the farm where Abraham Lincoln was born.

The descriptions which accompany the different views serve as brief historical sketches and attempt to give the visitor to the park such information as will allow him to appreciate to a greater extent the many interesting places. The history of the farm is traced from the time that a patent was granted by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1786, until it was accepted as a National Park by the United States Government in 1916.

Another feature of the souvenir which the tourist will appreciate is an exact copy of the many inscriptions which are found on both the exterior and interior walls of the memorial building, including the list of officers and trustees of the Lincoln Farm Association, which appear on bronze tablets on the rear wall of the structure. The itinerary of the log cabin in its journeys about the country is also traced, and much new material which has not heretofore appeared in print is made available to the reader.

The compiler acknowledges his obligation to the following persons who have been of assistance to him in gathering the facts published herein: Mr. O. M. Mather, whose great grand-father was an owner of the Lincoln Farm in the latter part of the nineteenth century; Judge R. W. Creal, whose father purchased the farm shortly after the Lincolns moved from it; Williams & Handley, attorneys for the Lincoln Farm Association; R. M. Mumford, publisher of the LaRue County Herald, and John Cissell, overseer of the Lincoln Park.

REV. LOUIS A. WARREN.

Hodgenville, Ky.

## LINCOLN NATIONAL PARK.

THE names of Jones and Collier will always be associated with the Lincoln National Park. Rev Jenkins Lloyd Jones and his son Richard Lloyd Jones, might be called the originators of the plan to conserve the birthplace of Lincoln and Robert J. Collier was of great assistance in carrying out the proposed program.

The Lincoln Farm Association was the organization which made the park possible and this brief word suggests the purpose of the movement, "This is a patriotic association of the citizens of the United States, formed to develop the Lincoln Birthplace Farm, at Hodgenville, Kentucky, into a permanent Lincoln National Park—a park of patriotism." The association raised \$385,000 by public subscription. All but \$48,000 was spent for improvements, which sum was left as an endowment to care for the park.

The following excerpt is from the deed showing the transfer of the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln from the Lincoln Farm Association to the United States of America:

"Upon considerations that lands herein described together with the buildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging shall be forever dedicated to the purpose of a National Park or Reservation, and the party of the second part, the United States of America, agrees to protect and preserve the said lands and buildings and appurtenances, and especially the Log Cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born, and the Memorial Hall enclosing same from spoilation, destruction and further disintegration, to the end that there shall never be any charge made to or asked from the public for admission to said park or reservation."



## THE JACKSON HIGHWAY

THE Lincoln National Park is situated on the National highway running North and South thru Kentucky, which has as its terminals the Great Lakes on the north and the Gulf on the south. The Highway intersects the historic farm traversing it from north to south. The northern entrance is marked by two brick columns capped with stone, with the inscription "Lincoln Farm" carved in stone plates.

The Jackson Highway from Louisville south was once known as the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike, and later the segment from Bardstown south, was called the Bardstown and Green River Turnpike. Still later the road was taken over by the Jackson Highway Association. Today as a National project it promises to become the main thoroughfare for motor traffic between the Lakes and the Gulf.

It is doubtful if there is a segment of twenty-five miles on any highway in the middle west, that has as many places of historic interest as the Jackson Highway from Bardstown to Hodgenville. At Bardstown is the "Old Kentucky Home" where Stephen Foster wrote the greatest of American folk songs; also the grave of John Fitch the unhonored inventor of the first steamboat; and St. Joseph's Cathedral, the oldest one west of the Alleghany Mountains, with its rare collection of old paintings. Near New Haven is the Abbey of Gethsemani, one of the two monasteries of the Trappist order in the United States, and where life may be seen as it was lived in the middle ages; while at Hodgenville is the Lincoln National Park. Continuing south the Jackson Highway leads to Mammoth Cave, about 60 miles from the birth place of Lincoln.



The Jackson Highway

## THE RAIL FENCE

IT is the intention of the United States Government to retain at the farm on which Lincoln was born, all the natural elements that will contribute to the early environment which characterized the sacred spot. One of the first evidences of this purpose that the visitor notices in the approach to the reservation, is the rail fence which borders that portion of the Jackson Highway that passes through the Park. With the possible exception of "Honest Abe" no appellation has been used in referring to Lincoln more frequently than that of "The Rail Splitter." While Lincoln was too young when he left the place of his birth to have any part in the manual labor about the place, he undoubtedly saw rails split by his father on this very farm.

We learn from John Hanks that when the Lincoln Family arrived on the Sangamon River in Macon County, Illinois, that the lanky young Kentuckian was already initiated into his early occupation, as Hanks says, "Abe and myself split rails enough to fence the place in." He also says that when Lincoln was 22 years old, "He made 3,000 rails for Maj. Warnick walking three miles daily to his work." The lover of Lincoln will always admire the rugged rail fence, and it was a happy thought to conserve the one on the place of his birth.



The Rail Fence

## LINCOLN FARM

**L**INCOLN Farm is a part of the tract of 30,000 acres for which a patent was granted to William Greenough by the Commonwealth of Virginia on the 20th of February, 1786. On the 29th of July, 1786, Greenough conveyed an undivided moiety of this 30,000 acre tract to John Hood, and the other undivided moiety to Joseph James. On the 11th day of June, 1798, Joseph James conveyed his undivided moiety of this tract to Richard Mather, who filed an action in Hardin County for a division. In April, 1801, commissioners were appointed by the Hardin County Court to make the division between the heirs of John Hood and Richard Mather. This division was made by the commissioners in the year 1802, and Richard Mather was allotted the north half of the 30,000 acre tract, or 15,000 acres, within which the Lincoln Farm is located.

Three hundred acres of this 15,000 acre tract were purchased by William Duckworth. The bond of Richard Mather to William Duckworth for one hundred acres is dated March 19, 1814. When the other two hundred acres were purchased from Mather by Duckworth is not shown, but this purchase was made prior to the purchase of the 100 acres. The 100 acre tract is described in the bond of March 19, 1814 as "Lying on the South Fork of Nolin, on the east side of the Road that goes from Burkharts of Hodgenville." It was while Mr. Mather controlled the property that Thomas Lincoln secured a "squatters right" but never seemed to be able to obtain a clear title.





## LINCOLN FARM.

(Continued)

By a bond dated August 17, 1827, C. Duckworth sold to Micajah Middleton the above three hundred acres of land, being the same on which Wm. Duckworth, deceased, formerly lived. From this it would appear that C. Duckworth was the heir of William Duckworth.

Micajah Middleton sold his right and interest in this 300 acres by indorsement on the bond given him by C. Duckworth, as follows, "July 21st., 1828. For value received I assign this bond to Richard Creal without recourse in case Mather's heirs paid for the land. Micajah Middleton."

Richard Creal sold a portion of this tract but kept the one hundred ten and one-half acres which constitutes the present Lincoln Farm, and which he retained until his death.

On November 23, 1894, the Richard Creal heirs sold the property to Alfred W. Dennett of New York for the sum of \$3,000. The deed recorded at the LaRue County Court House refers to the property as, "the Lincoln Spring Farm and is the same on which Abraham Lincoln was born." The bankruptcy of Mr. Dennett caused the farm to be sold under the hammer at the Court House door in Hedgenville, on August 28, 1905, and it was purchased by Robert J. Collier for \$3,600. On Nov. 9, 1907, Mr. Collier turned the property over to the Lincoln Farm Association for a consideration of \$1.00 and on April 11th 1906, the Lincoln Farm Association deeded the Lincoln Farm to the United States of America.



Memorial Driveway

## THE MEMORIAL BUILDING

THE architecture of the Memorial Building is an original design by John Russell Pope, the construction was superintended by Norcross Brothers of Worcester, Mass., and the material used was Stony Creek Connecticut granite.

Within the building stands the humble log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born, and with the exception of the inscriptions on the walls and a card index cabinet to one side, there is nothing further to detract the attention of the visitor from the chief object of interest. The cabinet contains the names of those who made possible the purchase of the farm, the cabin, the erection of the Memorial Building and the improvements on the old Home Place.

From the time that the building project was launched to the date of the acceptance of the park by the United States Government, three presidents have visited the memorial and taken part in the exercises appropriate to the occasions. The ceremonies at the laying of the corner stone, Feb. 12, 1909, were presided over by President Theodore Roosevelt. The dedicatory services on November 9th., 1911, were attended by President William Howard Taft, and the formal acceptance of the Lincoln Farm as a National Park was by President Woodrow Wilson on behalf of the United States of America, Sept. 4, 1916.

Companion for the centuries art thou,

And yet thy crumbling granite, turned to dust,

Shall not outlive that wasting pile, whose logs

Inspired, eternity will keep in trust.



**EXTERIOR INSCRIPTIONS  
ON  
MEMORIAL BUILDING**

LET US HAVE FAITH  
THAT RIGHT MAKES MIGHT,  
AND IN THAT FAITH LET US TO  
THE END DARE TO DO OUR DUTY

Cooper Institute, N. Y. Feb. 27, 1860.

STAND WITH ANYBODY THAT  
STANDS RIGHT  
STAND WITH HIM WHILE HE  
IS RIGHT, AND PART WITH HIM  
WHEN HE GOES WRONG

Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854.

HERE  
OVER THE LOG CABIN WHERE ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN WAS BORN DESTINED TO  
PRESERVE THE UNION AND FREE THE SLAVE  
A GRATEFUL PEOPLE HAVE DEDICATED  
THIS MEMORIAL TO UNITY PEACE  
AND BROTHERHOOD AMONG THE STATES  
  
WITH MALICE TOWARDS NONE,  
WITH CHARITY FOR ALL



Distant View of Memorial

THIS MEMORIAL  
ERECTED  
BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION  
THROUGH THE  
LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION

JOSEPH W. FOLK  
PRESIDENT

ROBERT J. COLLIER  
VICE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CLARENCE H. MACKAY  
TREASURER

RICHARD LLOYD JONES  
SECRETARY

JOHN RUSSELL POPE  
ARCHITECT

CORNERSTONE LAID BY  
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT  
FEBRUARY 12, 1909

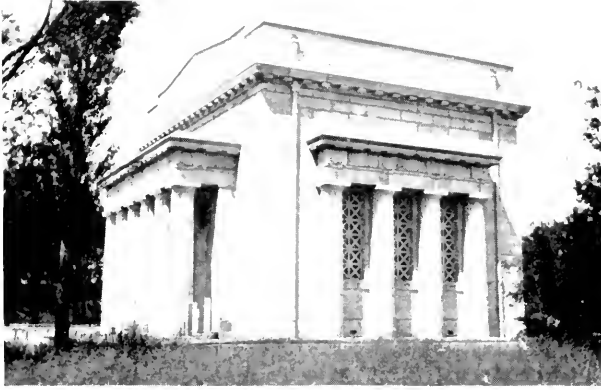




Rear View of Memorial

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION**

WILLIAM H. TAFF  
JOSEPH W. FOLK  
HORACE PORTER  
CHARLES E. HUGHES  
OSCAR S. STRAUS  
JOHN A. JOHNSON  
ALBERT SHAW  
SAMUEL L. CLEMENS  
CLARENCE H. MACKAY  
NORMAN HAPGOOD  
LYMAN J. GAGE  
SAMUEL GOMPERS  
AUGUST BELMONT  
ROBERT J. COLLIER  
AUGUSTUS E. WILSON  
HENRY WATTERSON  
JENKINS LLOYD JONES  
THOMAS HASTINGS  
IDA M. TARBELL  
CHARLES A. TOWNE  
RICHARD LLOYD JONES  
CARDNIAL GIBBONS  
JOSEPH H. CHAOTE  
EDWARD M. SHEPHERD  
WILLIAM J. BRYAN  
CHARLES E. MINER  
WILLIAM T. JEROME  
AUGUSTUS ST. GAUDENS



North View of Memorial

## THE CORNER STONE

THE Corner Stone in the north east corner of the building designated by the inscription "February 12, 1909" was laid at the dedicatory services which were held in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Theodore Roosevelt then president of the United States officiated at the exercises.

The stone is a block of Connecticut Granite weighing 3,000 pounds. After the stone was ready for placement Theodore Roosevelt applied the first mortar with a silver trowel. After each address the written copies were placed in the corner stone along with other interesting data.

The contents of the metal box within the stone with the name of the person depositing same are as follows:

Address on behalf of the Government—Theodore Roosevelt.

Address on behalf of Lincoln Farm Association—Gov. Joseph W. Folk

Address on behalf the State of Kentucky—Gov. A. Willson

Address on behalf of the Federal Army—Gen. James Grant Wilson.

Address on behalf of Confederate Army—Gen. Luke E. Wright

Copy of Emancipation Proclamation—L. T. Montgomery, Ex Slave

Coins of the Day—Clarence H. Mackay

History of Lincoln Farm Association—Richard Lloyd Jones

Copy of LaRue County Herald February 11, 1909—Robert J. Collier

Silk American Flag—Theodore Roosevelt



The Corner Stone

## THE LOG CABIN

HERE is nothing at the Park that rivals in interest The Log Cabin in which Lincoln was born. Sheltered now from the elements and also from the hand of the vandal, it is conserved so that future generations may be inspired by its presence. Its history is as romantic as the life of the child that left the cabin for the White House. A family by the name of Harrison lived in the cabin after the Lincolns left, then it was vacant for several years. In the early sixties shortly after Lincoln was chosen President, George Rodman, an admirer of Lincoln, bought the old cabin from Richard Creal and moved it from its original site to his property about one and one-half miles from the Lincoln farm. It was first used as a shelter for negroes later as a tenant house. Two terms of school were taught in the cabin about 1872 and 1873. In 1875 John Davenport married the school teacher and they went to keeping house in the Cabin. They lived there until 1894 when the cabin was purchased by A. W. Dennett and moved back to its original site on the Lincoln Farm.

The cabin rested on the old foundation but a short time then it was taken down and the 143 logs were shipped to the Nashville Centennial in 1894. It was moved to Central Park, New York, and again exhibited at the Buffalo Exposition in 1901, after which it was purchased by David Creer and stored in the old Poffenhansen Mansion on Long Island. In 1906 the Lincoln Farm Association purchased the cabin and shipped it to Louisville where it was one of the features of the Louisville Home Coming Celebration. It was stored in Louisville until the laying of the corner stone of the Memorial Building in 1909 when it was brought to Hodgenville for the occasion, but immediately returned to storage and remained there until the building which houses it was dedicated in 1911.



## INSCRIPTIONS WITHIN

HE WAS THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, THE EAST, THE WEST.  
THE THRALL, THE MASTER, ALL OF US IN ONE;  
THERE WAS NO SECTION THAT HE HELD THE BEST;  
HIS LOVE SHOWN AS IMPARTIAL AS THE SUN;  
AND SO REVENGE APPEALED TO HIM IN VAIN,  
HE SMILED AT IT AS AT A THING FORLORN,  
AND GENTLY PUT IT FROM HIM, ROSE AND STOOD  
A MOMENTS SPACE IN PAIN,  
REMEMBERING THE FRARIES AND THE CORN  
AND THE GLAD VOICES OF THE FIELD AND WOOD.

MAURICE THOMPSON

THE COLOR OF THE GROUND WAS IN HIM THE RED EARTH;  
THE SMELL AND SMACK OF ELEMENTAL THINGS:  
THE RECTITUDE AND PATIENCE OF THE CLIFF;  
THE GOOD WILL OF THE RAIN THAT LOVES ALL LEAVES;  
THE FRIENDLY WELCOME OF THE WAYSIDE WELL;  
THE COURAGE OF THE BIRD THAT DARES THE SEA;  
THE GLADNESS OF THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE CORN;  
THE MERCY OF THE SNOW THAT HIDES ALL SCARS;  
THE SECRECY OF STREAMS THAT MAKE THEIR WAY  
BENEATH THE MOUNTAIN TO THE RIFTED ROCK;  
THE UNDELAYING JUSTICE OF THE LIGHT  
THAT GLIDES AS FREELY TO THE SHRINKING FLOWER  
AS TO THE GREAT OAK FLARING TO THE WIND  
TO THE GRAVES LOW HILL AS TO THE MATTERHORN  
THAT SHOULDERS OUT THE SKY.

EDWIN MARKHAM



## MEMORIAL BUILDING

I WAS BORN FEB. 12, 1809, IN HARDIN COUNTY KENTUCKY. MY PARENTS WERE BORN IN VIRGINIA. MY MOTHER WHO DIED IN MY TENTH YEAR, WAS OF A FAMILY OF THE NAME OF HANKS. MY FATHER AT THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER WAS BUT SIX YEARS OF AGE, AND HE GREW UP, LITTERALLY WITHOUT EDUCATION. HE REMOVED FROM KENTUCKY TO WHAT IS NOW SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA, IN MY EIGHTH YEAR. WE REACHED OUR NEW HOME ABOUT THE TIME THE STATE CAME INTO THE UNION. IT WAS A WILD REGION, WITH MANY BEARS AND OTHER WILD ANIMALS, STILL IN THE WOODS. THERE I GREW UP. THERE WERE SOME SCHOOLS, SO CALLED. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO EXCITE AMBITION FOR EDUCATION. OF COURSE WHEN I CAME OF AGE I DID NOT KNOW MUCH. STILL, SOMEHOW, I COULD READ, WRITE, AND CIPHER TO THE RULE OF THREE. BUT THAT WAS ALL. THE LITTLE ADVANCE I NOW HAVE UPON THIS STORE OF EDUCATION, I HAVE PICKED UP FROM TIME TO TIME, UNDER THE PRESSURE OF NECESSITY.

A. LINCOLN

## THOMAS LINCOLN

January 30, 1770

January 17, 1851

FIFTH IN DESCENT FROM SAMUEL LINCOLN, WEAVER, WHO LANDED AT HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, MAY 26, 1637. ORPHANED AT SIX YEARS OF AGE BY AN INDIAN BULLET HE GREW UP HOMELESS IN THE WILD WOODS OF KENTUCKY. AT TWENTY-FIVE HE WAS THE POSSESSOR OF THIS CABIN HOME AND ITS NEIGHBORING ACRES. IN 1818 HE MOVED TO INDIANA, THEN A TERRITORY. FIVE YEARS LATER HE FOLLOWED THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION TO ILLINOIS, WHERE HE LIVED A PEACEFUL, INDUSTRIOUS, RESPECTED CITIZEN, A GENERAL, HONEST AND CONTENTED PIONEER. WITH COURAGE AND ENERGY HE BUILT WITH HIS OWN HAND FIVE HOMES, EACH BETTER THAN THE PRECEEDING ONE, HE WON AND HELD THE LOVE AND CONFIDENCE OF TWO NOBLE WOMEN AND HE WAS THE FATHER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. "MY FATHER INSISTED THAT NONE OF HIS CHILDREN SHOULD SUFFER FOR THE WANT OF EDUCATION AS HE HAD "

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"HE WAS A GOOD CARPENTER FOR THE TIMES. HE HAD THE BEST SET OF TOOLS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. THE LINCOLNS HAD A COW AND A CALF, MILK AND BUTTER, A GOOD FEATHER BED—FOR I HAVE SLEPT ON IT. THEY HAD A HOME-WOVEN 'KIVERLID,' BIG AND LITTLE POTS, A LOOM AND WHEEL. TOM LINCOLN WAS A MAN AND TOOK CARE OF HIS WIFE. REVEREND JESSE HEAD, THE MINISTER WHO MARRIED TOM LINCOLN AND NANCY HANKS, TALKED BOLDLY AGAINST SLAVERY AND TOM AND NANCY LINCOLN AND SARAH BUSH WERE JUST STEEPED FULL OF JESSE HEAD'S NOTIONS ABOUT THE WRONGS OF SLAVERY AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN AS EXPLAINED BY THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THOMAS PAINE."

Professor T. C. Graham of  
Louisville, Kentucky

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN

February 4, 1784

October 5, 1818

BORN IN VIRGINIA; WHEN THREE YEARS OLD  
HER PARENTS JOSEPH AND NANCY SHIPLEY  
HANKS, CROSSED THE MOUNTAINS INTO  
KENTUCKY. ORPHANED AT NINE SHE WAS ADOPTED  
AND REARED BY RICHARD AND LUCY SHIPLEY  
BERRY, AT WHOSE HOME IN BEECHLAND, WASH-  
INGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, SHE WAS MARRIED TO  
THOMAS LINCOLN, JUNE 17, 1866. OF THIS UNION  
WERE BORN SARAH, ABRAHAM AND THOMAS. THE  
FIRST MARRIED AARON GRIGSBY AND DIED IN  
INDIANA IN 1828. THE LAST DIED IN INFANCY. THE  
SECOND LIVED TO WRITE THE EMANCIPATION  
PROCLAMATION. THE DAYS OF THE DISTAFF THE  
SKILLETT, THE DUTCH OVEN THE OPEN FIREPLACE  
WITH ITS IRON CRANE ARE NO LONGER, BUT  
HOMEMAKING IS STILL THE FINEST OF THE FINE  
ARTS. NANCY HANKS WAS TOUCHED WITH THE  
DIVINE APTITUDES OF THE FIRESIDE. LOVE AND  
HONORED FOR HER WIT, GENIALITY AND INTELLIGENCE,  
SHE JUSTIFIED AN ANCESTRY REACHING BEYOND  
THE SEAS, REPRESENTED BY THE NOTABLE NAMES  
OF HANKS, SHIPLEY, BOONE, EVANS AND MORRIS. TO HER  
WAS ENTRUSTED THE TASK OF TRAINING A GIANT IN  
WHOSE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES SHE WAS HALLOWED.  
OF HER HE SAID, "MY EARLIEST RECOLLECTIONS OF MY  
MOTHER IS SITTING AT HER FEET WITH MY SISTER DRINK-  
ING IN THE TALES AND LEGENDS THAT WERE READ AND  
RELATED TO US." TO HIM ON HER DEATH BED SHE  
SAID: 'I AM GOING AWAY FROM YOU ABRAHAM, AND  
I SHALL NOT RETURN. I KNOW YOU WILL BE A GOOD BOY,  
THAT YOU WILL BE KIND TO SARAH AND YOUR FATHER.  
I WANT YOU TO LIVE AS I HAVE TAUGHT YOU TO AND TO  
LOVE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.' "ALL THAT I AM OR  
HOPE TO BE I OWE TO MY DARLING MOTHER."

## THE SPRING

THE best gift to the Lincoln Farm is the spring of cool water, which gave the property the name of Lincoln Spring Farm in the early days of its history. It is located at the foot of the elevation on which the memorial building stands, and the approach is a descent down a flight of stone steps, leading to the rock cave which forms a natural spring house for the never failing stream. The cave is high enough for one to stand upright, and wide enough to accomodate a number of people. Its walls are covered with vegetation and the overhanging trees make it one of the most beautiful spots on the entire reservation. The water gushes forth from a crevice in the rock and falls gracefully into a cavity that has been made by the centuries of its continued service.

The spring is undoubtedly very much the same as it was in the days that the Lincoln family secured from it their water supply, and its presence was probably responsible for the location of the cabin which stood close by. When Lincoln was president, in conversation with an old citizen of LaRue County, Dr. Jesse Rodman, he remarked about having remembered the old spring.

The visitor to the spring may see carved in the wall the letters S. C. placed there in 1860 by Samuel Castene. Mr. Castene borrowed the hammer and chisel used in carving the initials from R. W. Creal, the present Judge of LaRue County, who was then a small boy on his father's farm and who lived in the old cabin at the entrance to the Park. Soldiers returning after the Civil War remarked that someone had carved in the wall of the old spring, the initials standing for Southern Confederacy.



## THE OLD OAK

ONE of the most interesting features in the Park is often overlooked by the visitor, but certainly not because of its obscurity. The giant corner oak overshadows everything else in its immediate vicinity and it is doubtful if it has an equal in size in the entire county. If one could interpret the language of the trees, like the Exiled Duke in the Garden of Arden, the tongue of this tree might tell an interesting story. There is no doubt but what the boy Lincoln played day after day in the shade of this old settler, which even at that early date had acquired some age.

An old deed dated in 1827 in which the Lincoln farm was conveyed from Wright and Duckworth to Micajah Middleton, suggests that at this time the tree was well known and was large enough to distinguish it from its neighbors. The clause of interest in the deed reads, "To begin at a noted white oak D. V. Vance's corner." This same white oak appears to be the first point designated in the boundaries of four farms which at one time cornered at the oak, at present three farms use the tree as the starting point of their boundary surveys.

The white oak is in a perfect state of preservation and seems good for at least another century. It makes a substantial growth each year and shows no signs of decay. The trunk has a circumference of fifteen feet two inches at a point six feet from the ground, and the foliage a spread of one hundred and eight feet. It is located about 300 feet south of the spring.



The Old Oak

## NATURES CONTRIBUTION

NATURE has blessed the reservation, not so much with an orderly display of cultivated flowers and shrubbery as with wild berries, tangled brush, crazy vines and trees, all sizes, all ages, and in natural state of preservation of all sizes, all ages, and in natural states of preservation. Such an environment has called within these protected acres a varied feathered flock such as find their nesting place in Kentucky. The lover of bird life may find them all present from Jennie Wren, who makes her home in a tin can near headquarters; to the gawky old Buzzard who may be seen day after day against the sky over the Memorial Building, but who really lives within the farm boundaries. The Kentucky Cardinal likes to sport in the trees near the Memorial Building where his blazing coat of red finds a fitting background in the granite structure. The writer knows the favorite bush where a pair of Mocking Birds from year to year raise a chorus of songsters, and can knock on the post where a pair of Bluebirds go to housekeeping in the early Spring.

The most interesting feathered tenants at the farm however, is a pair of Peewees that build at the top of one of the giant columns of the Memorial Building. Their ancestors probably secured a squatters right on the farm long before Thomas Lincoln moved into the humble cabin and now that they have been prevented from building under the old thatched roof, they come as near as possible to their cabin home. It is to be hoped that a portion of the farm at least, may never be cleared of its old brush, its decayed trees and the various elements necessary to make the birds feel at home on this national reservation.





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